



**Great Horwood
Parish Council**

GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 14th April 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs J. Gilbey (Chairman), M. Brocklehurst, M. Berrill, I. Lamberton,
D. Yates; Mr. D. Trigg (Clerk)

In attendance: Six members of the public.

8.1 Apologies for absence

Cllrs. Moulding and Samways

8.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2008 were agreed and signed.

8.3 Declaration of interest

None.

8.4 Matters arising from the Minutes

8.4.1 David Hedley of BCC has advised that a hand rail will be fitted on each side of the steep path at the bottom end of the Nash Road Nash Road Parking scheme. The Clerk to write and advise L. Sirett of this plan.

8.4.2 The Clerk had further information from Fulcrum that there would be an additional charge of £100 per metre to bring the gas supply to the village, and that the distance from the A421 to the village would be 3.1 kilometres.

8.4.3 Cllr. Brocklehurst. Will put up horse riding posters at each end of the alley way leading from the High Street to the top of Spring Lane.

8.5 Public Participation Period

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting for this item.

During this period two villagers raised the question as to why the village precept had increased so much this year. It was explained that the main factors involved were the renewal of the street lighting throughout the village. This had cost around £15,000 but had only been financed by a loan of £10,000 thus dramatically reducing the Council's reserves. The loan has also to be paid back at a rate of £1,000 per year. The Council had also budgeted £2,500 for the annual maintenance of the new Recreation Area and had made an allowance for work on the old Recreation Area, in Willow Road, and also for professional maintenance work in other areas of the village. An information sheet was supplied showing the make up of the budget. A second sheet gave comparisons of the precepts set by 16 other local Councils which showed that a Great Horwood Council Tax Payer still has the fourth lowest bill in the area. A third sheet which shows the effect of the increase on individual Council Tax payers in the village demonstrated that a Band D householder would pay 37 pence per week extra or 27 pence if they lived on their own.

One villager brought up the subject of speeding through the village and Cllr Gilbey summarised the activities that had been undertaken and the current situation.

8.6 Report from the Parish Plan Steering Committee. Cllr. Moulding

There was no formal report but confirmation that the Village Design Workshop will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 26th April. Also a slightly revised version of the Bus Timetable has been produced and is posted on the notice board in the Village Hall and also on the Parish Council website.

8.7 Date, Place and Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting

After some discussion it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Thursday 8th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

8.8 Dog Fouling – should we install dog bins in the village

There has been an increase in feelings about this issue and the Council was informed that some parents will not let their children use the new Recreation Area because of the fouling. We have had an offer from somebody in the village to finance the installation of the first dog bin in the Village and the Parish Council discussed at some length whether it should pay for the installation of a second bin and also for the annual maintenance of the 2 bins. Each bin costs £220 to buy and then approximately £175 per year to maintain. Formal resolution to buy one bin and maintain two bins. Finally the Council deferred a final decision until its next meeting on 12th May.

8.9 Reports from the Recreation Committee Cllr. Brocklehurst.

Cllr. Brocklehurst confirmed that we are still waiting for a response from AVDC to the planning application for change of use for the new recreation area. Contact has been made with a senior member of the Planning Department to try to speed things up.

8.10 Reports from the Planning Committee. Cllr. Gilbey.

Cllr Gilbey circulated the current report, noting some recent decisions.

8.11 BCC Minerals & Waste Core Strategy DPD Preferred options consultation.

Cllr Moulding had advised the Clerk that he had read the document and the changes do not directly affect Great Horwood. The possible site for a Household Waste Transfer Station opposite the end of the B4033 in Winslow has now been removed from the plan. Cllr Moulding will respond to BCC on behalf of the Clerk to ensure that we are kept updated with any future developments. This was unanimously approved.

8.12 Wild flower planting in Nash Road.

Cllr Yates had spoken to various people including David Coussell who has a business maintaining grounds. He has said he will provide the necessary seed and sow it for the village. BCC have been consulted and they are happy with this. The Clerk to write to Mr Coussell to thank him and arrange for the work to be carried out.

8.13 Report on the review of the Committees of the Council. Cllrs Gilbey, Moulding and Brocklehurst.

Cllr. Gilbey reported that there had been no progress on this matter since the last meeting.

8.14 Payments. Clerks remuneration £165. ABB Maintenance and street light in Willow Road £408.31. EON electric bill £36.66.

8.15 Correspondence.

Letter from P. Berrey re the increase in the Precept. This was dealt with in item 5 of this meeting.

8.14 Items for the next meeting

Proposal on the installation and maintenance of dog fouling waste bins.

8.15 Date and time of the next meeting

Monday the 12th May 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Signed _____
Chairman

Draft

_____ Date